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Title: PERSONAL PAPERS OF GENERAL DAVID A. BURCHINAL

Date(s): 1945 - 1970

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☐ ALL ☒ Selected Papers ☐ Except

AWARD ORDERS + CITATIONS

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE
APO 234, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

GENERAL ORDERS)
:
NO.....42)

23 August 1945

SECTION I

AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED-FLYING CROSS—By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 2 July 1926 (Bull 8, WD, 1926), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Distinguished-Flying Cross to the following named officers and enlisted men.

Colonel DAVID A BURCHINAL, 0368879, (then Lieutenant Colonel), Headquarters Twentieth Air Force, Air Corps, United States Army. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on 12 April 1945. Colonel BURCHINAL was flying as Observer for the XXI Bomber Command in the deputy lead plane of a formation of B-29 aircraft which took off from a base in the Marianas Islands on a bombing mission against the Hodegoya Chemical Works in Koriyama, Japan, the longest combat mission flown by B-29 aircraft in this theater. Upon reaching the assembly area, a phosphorous smoke bomb exploded in the radio compartment of the group lead plane causing it to leave the formation. Colonel BURCHINAL immediately assumed command of the group and through superior airmanship in spite of haze and restricted visibility closed the formation tightly behind his lead plane and continued to the target. The formation was maneuvered among the other attacking units in such a manner that a compact column of squadrons was achieved prior to reaching the initial point. Anti-aircraft fire and fighter attacks harassed the group as they started on the bomb run, but Colonel BURCHINAL unflinchingly led the formation on the predetermined course at an altitude of 7000 feet. Seventy-five per cent of the bombs fell within 1000 feet of the aiming point, completely obliterating the target. By his courageous leadership, superior flying ability, and expedient action in the face of unforeseen circumstances, Colonel BURCHINAL reflected great credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH AIR FORCE

APO 234, c/o Postmaster
San Francisco, California

GENERAL ORDERS)

NO. 58)

9 September 1945

SECTION VIII

AWARD OF THE SILVER STAR--By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved 9 July 1918 (Bull 43, WD, 1918), and pursuant to authority delegated by Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Forces in classified letter, file AG 323, subject: "Definition of Administrative Responsibilities", dated 6 August 1945, announcement is made of the award of the Silver Star to the following named officers:

Colonel DAVID A BURCHINAL, 0388879, Headquarters, Twentieth Air Force, Air Corps, United States Army. For gallantry in action in aerial flights on 16 March 1945, 15 April 1945, and 25 May 1945. As Bomber Command Observer and Pilot, voluntarily and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Colonel BURCHINAL flew over Tokyo on two occasions for an hour and fifty minutes each time, and over Kobe for thirty minutes observing the effectiveness of incendiary techniques employed against enemy urban industrial areas. Though held in the cone of search-lights, bracketed by intense and accurate flak which damaged the airplane on one occasion, pursued by night fighters and suicide planes, Colonel BURCHINAL displayed coolness and great courage in electing to continue these observations in an effort to determine effective combat plans. The success of his observations are directly reflected in the destructive bombardments achieved, against which the Japanese could provide no suitable defense. This sustained gallantry in the face of the heaviest opposition the enemy could muster was in large measure responsible for the high degree of success attained by the aerial offensive against Japan at minimum cost. Colonel BURCHINAL's technical skill and courage reflect the highest credit on himself and the Army Air Forces.

By direction of the President, the Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Air Forces takes pleasure in presenting the Legion of Merit to

Colonel David A. Burchinal, 0388879
Air Corps
United States Army

for services set forth in the following and as announced in General Orders No 32, Headquarters, USASTAF, 23 September 1945.

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from 14 June 1944 to 26 August 1945. As Assistant Chief of Staff, A-3, 313th Bombardment Wing, Colonel Burchinal, through his tireless efforts and organizational ability perfected the control rooms and operations section of the groups and the wing, and established a lead crew school which became a model for all wings. He initiated the mine-laying training program which resulted in the most effective enemy blockade in the history of warfare. The highly efficient sea-search sweeps conducted under his supervision contributed materially to the success of the carrier attack on Tokyo. As Chief of the Training and Tactics Sections, A-3 and as Deputy A-3, XXI Bomber Command and Twentieth Air Force, Colonel Burchinal demonstrated exceptional tactical skill and resourcefulness. The lead crew, combat crew and replacement crew training program established by him were the most productive type of theater training ever attempted and incomparable in combat organizations. Through his imaginative genius, determination of purpose and tactical knowledge gained in combat missions against Japan, he developed and executed the revolutionary and highly successful 'Empire Plan', devised to strike multiple targets in various zones to overcome unpredictable weather and to exploit to the maximum the capability of the force. In the absence of the A-3, he zealously initiated and completed plans for the complicated series of small town incendiary attacks, which hastened the defeat of the enemy. Through his superior professional ability, ingenuity and devotion to duty, Colonel Burchinal contributed materially to the air offensive against Japan, thereby reflecting the highest credit on himself and the Army Air Forces."



COL. DAVID A. BURCHINAL, USAF (right), is awarded the Commendation Ribbon for "aggressive and positive leadership" while commanding SAC's 43d Bomb Wing, during a recent ceremony at March AFB, Calif. Former Fifteenth Air Force Commander Maj. Gen. Walter C. Sweeney, jr., made the presentation. General Sweeney now commands the Eighth Air Force with headquarters at Westover AFB, Mass.

C O P Y

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD

OF

THE COMMENDATION RIBBON

(1st Oak Leaf Cluster)

TO

DAVID A. BURCHINAL

COLONEL DAVID A. BURCHINAL, 1936A, USAF, distinguished himself by meritorious service as Commander, 43d Bombardment Wing, Medium, 36th Air Division, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, during the period from 4 January 1954 to 22 July 1955. During this period Colonel Burchinal, through aggressive and positive leadership, trained and inspired his wing to an outstanding position. The accomplishments and success of the wing reflected Colonel Burchinal's thorough direction, command, and superior ability as a commander by its high state of discipline and morale and the attainment of the maintenance and operational goals to which it was assigned. Possessing outstanding professional ability, Colonel Burchinal obtained superior results at all times and commanded the respect and admiration of all his personnel. His keen foresight, able direction and leadership, high degree of professional ability and selfless devotion to duty reflect credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

9 JANUARY 1962

MAJOR GENERAL D. A. BURCHINAL
DIRECTOR OF PLANS, DCS/P&P

THRU: DCS/PLANS AND PROGRAMS

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O
P
Y
1. BETWEEN 3 DECEMBER AND 29 DECEMBER 1961, YOU SERVED ON A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO ANALYZE, AS A MATTER OF UTMOST URGENCY, A DETAILED REPORT ON STRATEGIC FORCE REQUIREMENTS WHICH HAD REQUIRED OVER EIGHT MONTHS TO COMPLETE, TO REVISE USAF STUDIES ON THE SAME SUBJECT IN THE LIGHT OF SUBSTANTIALLY CHANGED CONDITIONS, TO TEST YOUR RESULTS USING WAR GAMING TECHNIQUES, TO RELATE BOTH STUDIES TO CERTAIN CURRENT PROPOSALS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, AND FINALLY TO PREPARE A BRIEFING - COMPLETE WITH AIDS - FOR VERY HIGH LEVEL PRESENTATION.
 2. THAT YOU WERE SELECTED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE IS TRIBUTE TO THE REPUTATION YOU ENJOY FOR ANALYTICAL ABILITY OF THE HIGHEST ORDER, MATURE JUDGMENT AND ACUTE, PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE; THAT YOU SUCCEEDED IN PRODUCING OUTSTANDING RESULTS IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE ASSIGNED PROJECT IS PROOF OF YOUR OUTSTANDING PROFESSIONAL QUALITIES. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TASK, ITS COMPLEXITY, THE REQUIREMENT TO TRANSLATE DETAILED AND INVOLVED COMPUTATIONAL MATTERS TO READILY COMPREHENSIBLE DATA, THE EXTREME PRESSURE ASSOCIATED WITH PRODUCING THE DESIRED RESULTS UNDERFIXED DEADLINES -- ALL SERVED TO MAKE THIS A MOST DIFFICULT TASK.
 3. I AM FURTHER AWARE THAT YOU WILLINGLY AND SELFLESSLY WORKED MANY HOURS OVERTIME, OFTEN WORKING THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, WITH INADEQUATE REST AND NO RELAXATION. I CONSIDER THAT YOUR CONTRIBUTION, INVOLVING A HIGH DEGREE OF PERSONAL SACRIFICE, COMPRISES DEDICATION, LOYALTY, AND DEVOTION TO THE SERVICE IN CONSONANCE WITH ITS HIGHEST STANDARDS.
 4. I COMMEND YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS, WHICH SHOULD MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE ABILITY OF THE AIR FORCE TO ANTICIPATE AND THUS MEET SUCCESSFULLY THE UNCERTAINTIES OF THE FUTURE.
 5. A COPY OF THIS LETTER WILL BECOME A PART OF YOUR PERMANENT RECORD.

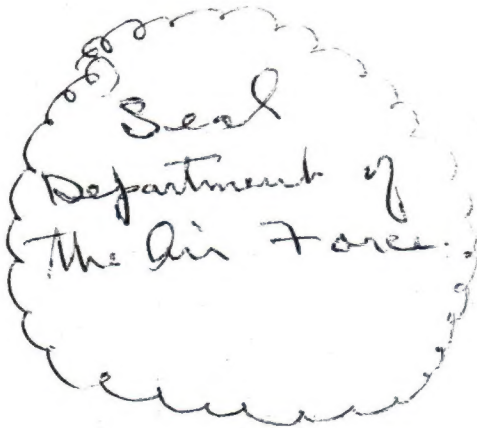
CURTIS E. LEMAY
GENERAL, USAF
CHIEF OF STAFF

CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF
THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

TO

DAVID A. BURCHINAL

Lieutenant General David A. Burchinal distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service to the United States in positions of great responsibility as Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Programs, from 1 August 1962 to 31 January 1963, and Deputy Chief of Staff, Plans and Operations, from 1 February 1963 to 23 February 1964, Headquarters, United States Air Force. In these important assignments, the outstanding and dedicated efforts of General Burchinal and his unflagging devotion to duty resulted in the attainment of United States Air Force goals of unparalleled national and international importance. General Burchinal's great capability and keen foresight were significantly displayed in his superb performance in support of the Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, in his capacity as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of General Burchinal reflect the highest credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.



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